

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-18 are pending. Claim 1 is amended, and claims 10-18 are added. Claims 1 and 10 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Reasons for Entry of Amendments

At the outset, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered into the Official File in view of the fact that the amendments to independent claim automatically place the application in condition for allowance.

In the alternative, if the Examiner does not agree that this application is in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered for the purpose of appeal. This Amendment was not presented at an earlier date in view of the fact that the Examiner has just now presented new grounds for rejection in this Final Office Action.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that claims 10-18 are allowed, and that claims 7 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In response, rather than rewriting either of claims 7 and 9 in independent form at this time, independent claim 1 has been amended herein to include a novel combination of elements not taught or suggested by the references cited by the Examiner. See arguments below.

Therefore, independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Information Disclosure Statement

It is gratefully appreciated that the Examiner has acknowledged the Information Disclosure Statements filed on March 7, 2002, and August 1, 2005, and has returned initialed copies of the Forms PTO 1449.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 2, and 4-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Kumagai et al. (U.S. 4,556,877) in view of Hiraide (JP 07-270756). Further, claims 3 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kumagai et al. and Hiraide in view of Santis (U.S. 4,464,933). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance the prosecution of the present application, independent claim 1 has been amended herein to include to recite a combination of elements directed to a liquid crystal display, including *inter alia*

a temperature sensor mounted directly on the circuit board for detecting an ambient temperature of the circuit board.

The arrangement of the temperature sensor 51 and the circuit board 17 can be seen in FIG. 2, for example.

According to amended independent claim 1, the temperature sensor is mounted directly on the circuit board, so an electrode for connecting the temperature sensor to circuit board is not required.

With the above arrangement, the temperature sensor detects a temperature difference between the actual temperature of the liquid crystal display panel and the temperature of the circuit board.

However, heat collection panel 11 is arranged such that it divides the inside space of the meter housing, so that the difference between the temperature of liquid crystal display panel 10 and the temperature of the circuit board remains almost the same over time, as can be seen in Fig. 4.

As it were, the arrangement of the temperature sensor and the heat collection panel cooperate to provide the liquid crystal display which can control liquid crystal drive voltage accurately, an electrode for connecting the temperature sensor to circuit board is not required. So it causes the production process decrease.

By contrast, Kumagi et al. do not disclose a heat collection panel. In addition, the temperature sensor is mounted on a mounting plate, and is not mounted on the circuit board directly. Therefore, an electrode between the circuit board and the mounting plate is required.

Further, Hiraide merely discloses a shield case. The Examiner asserts that the shield case corresponds to the heat collection panel. However, shield case is a simply casing of the liquid crystal display panel unit, thus, Hiraide does not disclose anything about the heat collecting. The temperature sensor of Hiraide is mounted to the liquid crystal display panel. Thus, a new electrode is required.

At least for the reasons explained above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Kumagai et al. and Hiraide. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Therefore, independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

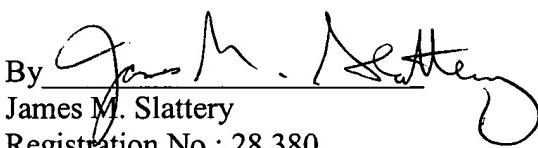
Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
James M. Slattery
Registration No.: 28,380
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Rd
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant


JMS/CTT/jmb